Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 04142 021013Z

22
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /081 W
---------- 082948
O 020933Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6103
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 4142

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, SN
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE BOAT CASE (LADY CYNTHIA, CHOU LONG)

REF: A. STATE 217215, B. SINGAPORE 4101, C. STATE 213600
D. SINGAPORE 4144

1. AUSTRALIAN HICOM HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT GOS IMMIGRATION GRANTED PERMISSION FOR ALL 22 REFUGEES ON BOARD THE MV LADY CYNTHIA TO DISEMBARK AFTER RECEIVING AN UNCONDITIONAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE FOR THEIR RESETTLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

2. REFUGEES REPORTEDLY WERE ALLOWED ASHORE THIS MORNING FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS. THEY ARE HOUSED AT YMCA AT KATONG PENDING THEIR DEPARTURE WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5 ON A QANTAS REGULAR FLIGHT.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 04142 021013Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

3. COMMENT: GOS ACTION IN ALLOWING REFUGEES TO COME ASHORE AFTER RECEIVING AN UNCONDITIONAL GUARANTEE OF ACCEPTANCE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THEIR EXISTING POLICY ON INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES. WE ALSO NOTE IN PARA 5 REF (A) STATEMENT RE SINKING OF CHOU LONG" AND RESCUE BY THE MV LADY CYNTHIA WHICH DESCRIBES SINGAPORE AS "A PORT WHICH HAS REFUSED SAFE HAVEN TO REFUGEES". EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT QUITE ACCURATELY DESCRIBE GOS REFUGEE POLICY WHICH DOES PROVIDE FOR REFUELING AND REPROVISIONING VESSELS IN PORT, RENDERING MEDICAL TREATMENT TO THE SICK AND IN CERTAIN CASES REPAIRING REFUGEE BOATS SO THAT THEY ARE SEAWORTHY. HOWEVER, THE GOS HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO PERMIT REFUGEES TO COME ASHORE FOR PROCESSING WITHOUT AN UNCONDITIONAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY. THIS REFUSAL HAS EFFECTIVELY STYMIED UNHCR RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS SINCE MOST EMBASSIES REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO PROCESS CASES AND CANNOT ISSUE AN UNCONDITIONAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE. MOREOVER, MASTERS OF MOST VESSELS CANNOT WAIT IN PORT UNTIL PROCESSING COMPLETED; THEREFORE, REFUGEES ARE FORCED TO STAY ON SHIP UNTIL SOME PORT CAN BE FOUND WHERE THEY CAN DISEMBARK FOR PROCESSING. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE GOS TO RELAX THIS RIGID AND UNFORTUNATE POLICY (SEE REF D). HOLDRIDGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP04142
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760333-0379
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760997/aaaadezg.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 217215, 76 SINGAPORE 4101, 76 STATE 213600, 76 SINGAPORE 4144
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINESE BOAT CASE (LADY CYNTHIA, CHOU LONG)
TAGS: SREF, SN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006